

A Recent Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*) **in Maine, and Revision of Earlier Records.**—On August 27, 1910, a Turkey Vulture was shot on Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and on the 30th it came into my hands. I was told that it swooped down among some chickens, and on the supposition that it was a hawk it was shot. It proved to be an adult female, with moult well advanced. It was rather fat, and with stomach nearly empty weighed about $4\frac{1}{4}$ pounds, about two pounds less than the weight given by Audubon. It carried a No. 8 shot embedded and healed in the left ulna and had lost the distal joint of the middle toe of the left foot, and the next joint was stiff.

This is apparently the fifth specimen to be taken and preserved in the State, though the number of accepted occurrences will now number nine.

The statements of Josselyn, Pennant and Wilson cannot be regarded as affording any specific Maine records. The first appears in the Boardman and Verrill list of 1862, based upon a specimen taken near Calais.¹

The second is chronicled by Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown, in the 'Rod and Gun,' December 15, 1874. This is the bird taken "about the first of November" that year in Standish, Cumberland County. Later compilers have accredited this to Mr. Everett Smith, who also recorded it.² The 'New England Bird Life,'³ in quoting from Smith, as cited, dropped the name of the town (*i. e.*, Standish) and the word "County," the record there appears as Cumberland, Maine, thus taking the aspect of another record, though fortunately the citations makes the case clear to anyone having access to the literature in the case.

The third specimen, taken at Buxton about the last of December, 1876, is also recorded by Mr. Brown.⁴

The fourth, taken at Denmark, Maine, March 15, 1883, by Mr. Abel Sanborn, has been the source of considerable confusion. Apparently this was first reported in the Lewiston 'Gazette,' of April 20, 1883 (*vide* Gushee), and what evidently is a clipping of this article is published by A. R. Gushee in 'Forest and Stream,' April 26, 1883.⁵ The place is not stated, though the capture is accredited to Abel Sanborn of East Fryeburg. In the same journal for May 10, Everett Smith presents the same record, giving the date of capture as March 15, 1883, East Fryeburg.⁶ In 1898 Mr. James C. Mead corrected the place of capture, so the record should stand, Denmark,⁷ Maine, March 15, 1883.

In the 'List of the birds of Maine' by O. W. Knight, this last bird appears under both, the Turkey Buzzard (Gushee)⁸ and Black Vulture (Smith)⁹.

¹ Proc. Boston Soc. N. H., IX, 122.

² Forest & Stream, III, 324 (Dec. 31, 1874).

³ Vol. II, 137.

⁴ Proc. Portland Soc. N. H., II, 23.

⁵ Vol. XX, 245.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 285.

⁷ Maine Sportsman, July, 1898, p. 13.

⁸ Bull. 3, Univ. of Maine, 57.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 58.

Unfortunately in changing this, the original citation seems not to have been consulted, and so two other errors have arisen, together with a typographical error due to one of these.

The first error is that Mr. Smith¹ has been made to appear to have recorded a Black Vulture rather than a Turkey Buzzard. Second, an error of one year has been made in the date,² through citing a secondary record. Third, the typographical error makes the record stand 1892,³ nine years later than the actual date.

There are also four instances of the occurrence of this bird recorded where they were seen and not taken, or taken and not preserved, but identified by description. These are, one seen at Whitney's Hill, Bangor, by the late Manly Hardy,⁴ two caught in bear traps, and described to Mr. Hardy⁵ and one seen at Scarborough by Ruthven Deane.⁶ Thus the Maine records of the Turkey Buzzard should stand:

One taken near Calais prior to 1863 (Boardman, Proc. Boston Soc. N. H., IX, 122).

One taken at Standish, November, 1874 (Brown, Rod and Gun, December 15, 1874).

One taken at Buxton, December, 1876 (Brown, Proc. Portland Soc. N. H., II, 23).

One taken at Denmark, March 15, 1883 (Gushee, F. & S., XX, 245; Smith, F. & S., XX, 285, and Mead, Maine Spts., V, July, 1898, 13).

One seen at Whitney's Hill, near Bangor, prior to April, 1897 (Knight, Bull. 3, Univ. of Me., p. 57).

Two caught in bear traps, prior to 1905 (Deane, Auk, XXII, 79).

One seen at Scarborough, Maine, August 5, 1904 (Deane, Auk, XXII, 78).

One taken at Cape Elizabeth, August 27, 1910 (recorded here).—
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The Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*) Wintering on the Coast of South Carolina.—On November 29, 1910, I saw an adult of this hawk flying rapidly over Oakland Plantation, Christ Church Parish, and on January 14, 1911, I observed a fine adult specimen in my yard, which was on the top of a Pride of India tree, but failed to secure it. Again on January 16, 1911, the same bird was observed by the writer, but although I followed it for nearly half a mile I was unable to get a shot at it, as it was very restless.

The coloration appeared to be very dark — in fact almost black — suggesting the probability of its being a representative of *Falco columbarius suckleyi*.

¹ Auk, XXII, 79, and Birds of Maine, 213.

² Auk, XXII, 79.

³ Birds of Maine, 213.

⁴ Bull. 3, Univ. Me., 57.

⁵ Auk, XXII, 79.

⁶ Auk, XXII, 78; Journ. Me. Orn. Soc., VII, 19, 20.